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Algeria: A tough anti-Western line is being pushed by the Algerian rebel leaders in preparation for UN General Assembly discussion of the Algerian question, according to the American Embassy in Tunis. Rebel Information Minister Mohamed Yazid claims that the provisional government is scrapping its foreign policy based on "deference for Western feelings" and now will accept help wherever it can find it. Yazid claims that the moderation of the provisional government served only to weaken its leadership over the Algerian Army of Liberation.

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New Oil-Producers' Organization: Officials of five major oil-producing countries--Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Venezuela--have announced the formation of an Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The organization was announced following a conference in Baghdad which ended on 14 September. The five countries involved account for almost half of the free world's production of crude oil and for most of the crude oil moving in international trade. Thus the new organization--which still has to be approved by the governments of the countries included--will have the potential for exerting strong pressures on the oil companies, particularly on such matters as the level of posted prices and profit-sharing.

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*Congo: In the confused power struggle in the Congo, Premier Lumumba appears to have lost ground to Colonel Mobutu--the Congolese military leader who announced on 14 September that the army had assumed control. Lumumba largely failed in an attempt on 15 September to rally to his support the 3,000 Congolese troops in the Leopoldville area and finally had to appeal to the UN Command for personal protection from aroused and seemingly undisciplined Congolese soldiers bent on killing him. Apparently deserted by many of his aides--including his leftist press officer, Serge Michel, a French expatriate--Lumumba now may abandon further efforts in Leopoldville and attempt to transfer his embattled regime to Stanleyville, his political stronghold. Mobutu's publicly expressed intention to "occupy" the National Assembly on 16 September may lead to some clarification of his relations with President Kasavubu, who has announced plans to address the legislature the same day, presumably in behalf of the new government he named last week.

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Meanwhile, the first serious test of the UN Command's ability to enforce the cease-fire which it recently announced had been ordered by the Congolese Army appears imminent in view of new reports that Congolese troops supporting Lumumba have crossed the border from Kivu Province into separatist Katanga Province. Katanga President Tshombé is also apparently faced with growing tribal dissidence and disorders in northern Katanga.

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*Cuba: Government forces apparently now are making a major effort to rout anti-Castro guerrilla bands from the Escambray Mountains of central Cuba. The guerrillas, estimated to number several hundred, are believed to be divided into several mutually antagonistic groups and to be poorly armed. Castro, however, is undoubtedly aware from his own revolutionary experience that, in a climate of growing popular unrest, even a very small guerrilla band can become a serious threat.

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Algerians Push Anti-Western Line in Hope of Obtaining
Favorable UN Action

The Algerian rebels are pushing an increasingly tough anti-Western line in preparation for UN General Assembly discussion of the Algerian question, according to the American Embassy in Tunis. The rebels' minister for information, Mohamed Yazid, informed the American chargé in Tunis that the provisional Algerian government is scrapping its six-year-old foreign policy of deference to Western feelings and of attempted conciliation of Western, especially UN, opinion.

Yazid added that hereafter the rebel government will accept help "where it can be found; if Khrushchev is willing to lead the fight at the United Nations and afterward for an Algerian solution, the provisional government will play along." Rebel leaders have expressed strong disgruntlement with the West from time to time, but Yazid usually takes a softer line toward the US than do some of his colleagues. The appearance since the breakdown of the summit of Soviet propaganda, more critical of De Gaulle's Algerian policy may have encouraged the rebels to hope for more open Soviet support in the United Nations.

Yazid claims that the rebels' newspaper--disseminated in Latin America and the Far East--carries articles critical of American policy because support for the Algerians comes principally from anti-US sources. In Africa, the rebels plan to focus attention "relentlessly" on American support for French colonialism in Algeria, "even if this adversely affects African attitudes toward the US role in the cold war." Yazid implemented this policy late last month at the Leopoldville conference of independent African states by accusing the United States of waging war on the Algerians through NATO.

Yazid stated that moderate policies had already weakened the provisional government's leadership over the Algerian Army of National Liberation and warned that if the war continues, Algerian nationalism--"in the hands of youths who were

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entering their teens when the war began in 1954 and who have no real ties with Western political thought"--will probably "one day sweep aside their elders in a Cuban-type outburst."

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[redacted] the rebels, who are sending a four-man delegation to New York next week, are seeking Soviet support for the UN-organized and -controlled referendum which Premier Ferhat Abbas proposed on 22 August. Tunisian President Bourguiba, who long has feared the growth of Communist influence among the Algerian rebels, is urging that Western states have a showdown with French President de Gaulle on Algeria now, so that the problem can be handled on Western initiative before irreparable damage is done. De Gaulle, after reiterating that the UN had no right to intervene in a matter which is within the competence of France, stated on his 5 September press conference that France would continue to pursue its present policy, regardless of what happens in New York. [redacted]

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Cuban Government Attempting to Rout Guerrillas:

Government forces are apparently making a major effort to rout anti-Castro guerrilla bands from the Escambray Mountains of central Cuba. At least 40 of Castro's militiamen and one regular army officer have reportedly been killed in this area already this month. The guerrillas are estimated to total several hundred, but are divided into several factions.

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the various bands, which he numbers at 14, may be unified shortly. In late August, the guerrillas were reported poorly armed, but they may by this time have received additional weapons smuggled to them by opposition groups in Havana and other cities. On 9 September, a clandestine radio transmitter was heard in Cuba appealing to the armed forces to join in fighting Castro.

The growth of popular dissatisfaction with the Castro regime in many parts of the island suggests that the position of the guerrilla bands may not be completely hopeless. This dissatisfaction erupted into open violence early this week in the province of Matanzas where there was a clash between pro-Castro and anti-Communist groups, and subsequent popular demonstrations demanding the release of anti-Communist prisoners resulted in several casualties. The militia and police were able to disperse the demonstrators only by firing into the crowd.

Castro is undoubtedly aware from his own revolutionary experience that, in a climate of growing popular unrest, even a very small guerrilla band could mushroom into a serious threat.

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The Congo Situation (Information as of 0400 EDT)

Although considerable confusion still surrounds the power struggle in the Congo, Premier Lumumba appears to have lost ground in the past 24 hours to Colonel Mobutu, the Congolese military leader who announced on 14 September that the army had assumed control. Mobutu's "peaceful revolution" hopes to "neutralize" both Lumumba and President Kasavubu until the end of the year.

Lumumba largely failed in an attempt on 15 September to rally to his support the 3,000 Congolese troops in the Leopoldville area and finally had to appeal to the UN Command for personal protection from Congolese soldiers bent on assassinating him. The soldiers, who seemed to be out of control, were apparently mostly natives of Kasai Province. They had been aroused by reports of casualties sustained by relatives and fellow tribesmen in Kasai who have been resisting Lumumba's attempt to subjugate them by force. After spending most of the day besieged in the officers' mess of the Ghanaian UN forces at suburban Camp Leopold II, Lumumba was roughed up by the unruly soldiers as he was being escorted to his residence at night by Congolese and Ghanaian bodyguards.

Lumumba's confinement within the camp throughout the day apparently shook the confidence of many of his closest aides and supporters. A number of them began quietly to disappear from view after midday, and in the evening Serge Michel--a leftist-inclined French national formerly associated with the Algerian rebels who has been serving as Lumumba's official spokesman--announced he had "ceased" his activities for the Congo Government because of the political situation. Such defections may prompt Lumumba to abandon at least temporarily further efforts in Leopoldville and attempt to transfer his embattled regime to Stanleyville, his political stronghold.

Some uncertainty still exists as to Mobutu's attitude toward President Kasavubu. Mobutu was recently elevated by Joseph Ileo--premier-designate in the new government named by Kasavubu last week but not yet invested--from chief of staff to commander of the Congolese Army and has appeared, at least since last week, to be working closely with Kasavubu as well as the UN Command. However, Ileo on 15 September confirmed the suspicions of the American Embassy in Leopoldville that Mobutu had not consulted him or Kasavubu about the 14 September coup announcement; however, Mobutu did apparently consult beforehand with the UN Command. Mobutu's relationship with the President may be clarified on 16 September, the day Mobutu has said he will "occupy" the National Assembly and the day Kasavubu plans to address the legislature. The President presumably hopes to prepare the way for the early formal investiture of the proposed Ileo government, an action which appears to be an essential prerequisite to the new regime's possible acceptance by other African states.

Reports from separatist Katanga Province that some 300 Congolese troops loyal to Lumumba "invaded" Katanga on 15 September suggest an imminent test of the UN Command's ability to enforce the cease-fire which it announced on 10 September had been ordered by the Congolese Army. Like the two small incursions which occurred last week, the new penetration -- reportedly confirmed by UN officials in Elisabethville -- was launched from Kivu Province to the north of Katanga.

Mali troops of the UN force are reported to have made contact with the advancing troops, and the government of Katanga President Tshombé claims its forces are also in the area and preparing to attack. At the same time, however, Tshombé's regime appears to be confronted by growing dissidence on the part of traditionally hostile Baluba tribesmen in northern Katanga.

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